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SENSITIVE SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR SA/PAB, SA/AR, SA/AC, EUR/PGI AND EUR/AGS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: <u>EAID</u> <u>PGOV</u> <u>PREL</u> <u>AF</u> <u>AU</u>

SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN RESPONSE: ADDRESSING UN FINANCIAL

SHORTFALLS FOR ELECTION COSTS IN AFGHANISTAN

REF: STATE 57541

THIS TELEGRAM IS SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED.

(SBU) EconPolOff conveyed reftel points on April 21 to Helmut Boeck, the head of the MFA's International Organizations Bureau. Boeck said that the GoA appreciated the difficulties experienced during the parliamentary elections and the need for additional financial resources. However, it was unlikely that Austria would be able to contribute funds to cover the financial shortfall. Boeck said he would verify this with his colleagues in the Asian Bureau.

McCaw